

Medicare as we know it, the Republicans are holding a bad hand. But instead of folding like a smart card player would, they have decided to go all in.

Yesterday, the Republican majority voted to deem their radical Medicare plan as passed into law, despite the fact that the overwhelming majority of Americans oppose them. At a time when Big Oil is making record profits and gouging consumers at the pump, the Republican majority has voted to balance the budget on the backs of the most vulnerable people in America: our children, our seniors, our students, and our disabled.

At a time when millions of Americans are struggling to just get by, the Republican majority has voted to provide massive tax cuts for the very rich. It's not fair and it's not right.

The American people are paying attention, Mr. Speaker. They are making their voices heard, including at the ballot box. I urge my Republican colleagues to listen and to abandon their reckless policies. Leave Medicare alone.

HONORING SERGEANT FIRST CLASS CLIFF BEATTIE

(Mrs. McMORRIS RODGERS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Mrs. McMORRIS RODGERS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today, just days after Memorial Day, to pay tribute to a brave man from Medical Lake Washington, who lost his life defending our country. Thirty-seven-year old Sergeant First Class Cliff Beattie was killed in Baghdad on May 22 when he was attacked by an improvised explosive device.

He died supporting Operation New Dawn in Iraq. He died protecting our country. He died fighting for a better, freer, safer America.

While we mourn the loss of this American patriot, I rise today to remind everyone that his memory will never be forgotten. We shall remember his legacy, his love and patriotism today and every day.

Sergeant First Class Beattie leaves behind his parents; his wife, Karen, who is also in the Army; his 17-year old daughter and 13-year-old son, who loved their father deeply. But he also leaves behind something that is more intangible: a legacy of honor for the bravery he displayed and the life he gave in the name of America.

May God bless Sergeant Beattie's family and all of our brave men and women who have answered America's call to freedom.

□ 1210

COMMENDING CHICAGO HOUSE

(Mr. QUIGLEY asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. QUIGLEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commend the work of Chicago House, an organization in my district that provides housing support services and job training to people affected by HIV/AIDS.

I commend Chicago House not just for saving the lives of thousands of Chicagoans and pulling them out of poverty, but also for saving money. Chicago House is a perfect example of the type of program we should be investing in.

Yes, we have to make a small investment up front, but programs like Chicago House take these funds and use them to train the jobless and provide employment rather than simply giving them a handout. Training individuals and securing employment for them is a double win, because not only do they no longer need subsidies, but they are also contributing to the tax base.

We have to make a distinction between spending and investing. Yes, we have to cut spending but we must be careful to maintain our investments and programs like Chicago House that save lives and dollars.

RECOGNIZING THE PASSING OF GOVERNOR BILL CLEMENTS

(Mr. SESSIONS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. SESSIONS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to join fellow Texans and Americans all across this great country in mourning the loss of a true conservative icon, former Texas Governor Bill Clements. As those of us who were touched by the Governor join together today in his honor to celebrate his life, may we all reflect on his many achievements and generosity as a dedicated entrepreneur, philanthropist, and public servant for the great State of Texas.

Governor Clements was the first Republican to serve as Texas governor since Reconstruction when he took office in 1979. His skillful leadership attracted Texans to the modern Republican party and modern day conservatism, paving the way for large Republican gains across my State in the following years. Governor Clements also laid the groundwork for Texas' economic viability by recruiting business and international trade to diversify our State's economy.

I am deeply saddened by the passing of Governor Bill Clements; however, his life is being celebrated today. My thoughts and prayers are with his wife, Rita, and all of his family and friends as they celebrate his life's accomplishments and mourn this great loss, not only to America but to the great State of Texas.

God bless Texas.

GOP NO JOBS AGENDA

(Mr. PAYNE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. PAYNE. Mr. Speaker, the Republican leadership has ignored the need for a strong jobs agenda and, worse, they have pushed budget plans that would only further depress the economy and harm the unemployed.

My constituents need a real job agenda in Washington now. Yet my Republican colleagues continue to promote efforts to do the opposite. On May 11, the Committee on Ways and Means approved a Republican bill that would end employment as we know it, deceptively calling it the JOBS Act. This act would eliminate the guarantee of Federal payment for temporary extended unemployment benefits on July 6.

This plan would take \$32 billion now in the Federal unemployment trust funds intended for extended unemployment benefits and ship the money to the States in block grants. It would also set unreasonable qualifying requirements to receive benefits and allow for the permanent diversion of regular unemployment funds with waivers.

More than 4 million Americans could lose extended benefits under this plan? This is unacceptable.

I assume that the floor vote on this was postponed because my colleagues on the other side of the aisle received a message of disapproval from the American people. But more than abandoning this misguided bill, we need a stronger effort to increase jobs and improve our economy. The American taxpayers want and deserve more now.

SUPPORT WAR POWERS RESOLUTION

(Mr. SHERMAN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. SHERMAN. We will soon vote on an amendment which I offered last night. It simply says that none of the funds in this appropriations bill can be used in contravention of the War Powers Resolution, which is the law of the land, Public Law 93-148. The law of the land states that the President can deploy troops but then must seek congressional authorization and must withdraw within 60 days if he doesn't get it.

Why do we need to add to this bill a provision that says the President can't spend money in violation of existing law? Because the President has asserted that resolutions of the United Nations or discussions with Members of Congress substitute for congressional authorization.

Why are we voting on this now? It has been ruled by the parliamentarian to be germane. We are voting now because Congress should take a stand before we take our 1-week break.

Even if you agree with everything that is happening in Libya, and we all long for democracy and the rule of law in Libya, this is a vote about democracy and the rule of law in the United States. This is our chance to simply

say the President, even the President, must follow law.

Please join with me, Mr. KUCINICH, and Mr. MCGOVERN in supporting the Sherman amendment.

DON'T GUT HOMELAND SECURITY FUNDING FOR NEW YORK

(Mr. MEEKS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. MEEKS. The Homeland Security appropriations bill, which will be on the floor in just a few minutes, is a bad bill for America and an especially bad bill for New York, but it cuts funding for New York substantially.

Almost 10 years after the attack on New York, we tracked down and killed Osama bin Laden, but the threat to the city of New York has not dissipated. New York is a prime target for terrorists because of what it symbolizes, a vibrant economic atmosphere where entrepreneurs can flourish, and a land of opportunity and freedom that serves as a gateway for the "poor and the huddled masses." Unfortunately, this bill takes a hacksaw to the city's counterterrorism and security efforts.

According to Mayor Bloomberg, this bill would jeopardize the continuity and operations of counterterrorism programs in New York City that New York City has under way. Cutting more than \$100 million in Homeland Security funding for New York is not only nonsensical, it is dangerous. As my friend PETER KING has said, this bill puts New York "at risk."

These cuts place an unconscionable burden on New York, and I will therefore vote against the bill.

NEGATIVE IMPACT OF DODD-FRANK

(Mr. YODER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. YODER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to discuss yet another negative impact the Dodd-Frank Act is having on the U.S. economy and job growth.

As agencies here in the United States are scrambling to meet the unrealistic deadlines proposed by this act, and as community banks struggle under a mountain of new regulations that strangle our economic recovery, we have also done great damage to the competitiveness of the United States in the international financial marketplace.

Other nations have yet to even consider the stringent regulations similar to the ones proposed in Dodd-Frank. Most important are the new proposed regulations that will require over-the-counter derivatives to be traded and cleared on exchanges.

G-20 nations have stated a goal for the end of 2012 as the implementation date of any global derivative reforms. Our earlier upcoming deadline of July 16, 2011, for U.S. implementation of the

derivatives reforms, puts the U.S. financial market at a significant global disadvantage and will further disrupt our economic recovery and job growth.

Let's repeal these damaging economic provisions and let's get America back to work again.

FEMA SAFER GRANTS

(Ms. FUDGE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. FUDGE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today because I am deeply concerned about my community's ability to address its emergency response needs.

FEMA SAFER grants are designed to assist cities with maintaining first responders on the street. The challenge is that FEMA has a stipulation that cannot have employees in layoff status.

The cities that are most in need of these funds are financially challenged. It is difficult for them to avoid laying off employees when they have no funds in the budget to retain them, as required by the FEMA grants.

This is a situation that people in my community are being confronted with. The city of Cleveland applied for and received two grants from FEMA.

Due to State-level budget cuts, Cleveland needs these FEMA grants now more than ever. FEMA should be granted the authority to waive the no-layoff clause. This way the funding system would be better able to live up to the intent of the grant, and our streets and communities would be safer.

SUPPORT MEDICARE

(Ms. EDWARDS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. EDWARDS. Mr. Speaker, today I rise in support of Medicare. It's a decades-old promise that my grandmother made to my mother and that I make to my son. For the last 5 months Republicans have played political theater with our Nation's most pressing issues, putting tax breaks for millionaires and oil companies ahead of the health care of our seniors.

Just yesterday, in procedural silliness, it was yet another act by the Republican majority's quest to end Medicare and jeopardize the health of our seniors. Yet again Republicans told our seniors loudly and clearly that they are willing by any means necessary to end Medicare, and that's just wrong.

They have also tried to trick our seniors into believing that their budget plan wouldn't affect them today, but that's wrong too. The fact is the end of Medicare would mean that our seniors and individuals with disabilities would pay \$12,500 in health care costs. The plan would force seniors to pay nearly \$6,800 out of their own pockets in the first year alone.

So I am going to urge all of us and our colleagues on the other side to stop

the political theater, to stand with the American people, to stop their quest to end Medicare and support our seniors.

How about creating jobs instead of ending Medicare?

□ 1220

AMERICA'S FISCAL CHALLENGES

(Mr. WELCH asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. WELCH. Mr. Speaker, this Congress and this country face two great fiscal challenges. One is long term, and one is urgent and immediate. Long term, we know we have to restore balance to our budget, and negotiations are under way in an effort to accomplish that.

There are significant differences in approach. Do you follow the outlines of the Ryan budget, which basically cut taxes for very wealthy Americans in the hope that will create jobs and pay for that by slashing or ending Medicare? Or do you proceed along the outline in the Obama budget which essentially would put everything on the table, including the Pentagon and including revenues?

But either way, the urgent and immediate responsibility is that we pay our bills. And either side that engages in a game of chicken with the obligation of this country to maintain its full faith and credit is playing with fiscal fire and using a loaded gun for a game of Russian roulette. That gun is pointed at the heart of the American economy.

America pays its bills. We must do that and do whatever is required in order to maintain our reputation for doing so.

THE CONSUMER FINANCIAL PROTECTION BUREAU

(Ms. JACKSON LEE of Texas asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. JACKSON LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise to join with my colleagues of the Congressional Progressive Caucus to ask the President to appoint a Presidential appointee to the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau, which is law. It is to protect the American people. That nominee so far has been Professor Elizabeth Warren who has acted as an adviser. The CFPB has earned praise from the banking community for working to simplify and improve mortgage foreclosure forms. This consumer protection board will protect the American people from predatory lending, from foreclosures, and from excessive rates on your credit card.

But, yet, Republicans in the Senate, in the other body, want to make ridiculous accusations to hold the hostage position and take this individual into a hostage position and to suggest that